

Q.

363.7
H83x2





Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Office of Pollution Prevention, #34
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
217/782-8700



August 2004

ILLINOIS
DEPOSITORY

NOV 19 2004

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA CHAMPAIGN

HOW TO PREVENT OPEN DUMPING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WHAT ITEMS ARE MOST OFTEN OPEN OR ILLEGALLY DUMPED?

- Construction and demolition waste (such as roofing shingles, bricks, lumber, concrete, siding)
- Abandoned vehicles, parts, and tires
- Medical waste
- "White goods" – refrigerators, freezers, ovens
- House/yard waste
- Furniture
- Motor Oil
- Hazardous materials



Abandoned vehicles, tires, white goods, etc. can be found in an illegally operated landfill.

WHEN DOES ILLEGAL DUMPING LIKELY TAKE PLACE?

- Typically, after dark, particularly in poorly lit areas
- A study of open dumping cases in Detroit, MI showed that 72% of illegal dumping arrests occurred between 5 p.m. and 12 a.m. and that

57% of all arrests occurred on a Tuesday or Wednesday



Illegal dump sites can have a negative impact on community development.

WHERE DOES ILLEGAL DUMPING MOST OFTEN OCCUR?

- Abandoned industrial, commercial, or residential buildings
- Vacant lots on public/ and private property
- Lesser traveled alleyways and roads
- Rural roads
- Railroads

WHY DO PEOPLE ILLEGALLY DUMP THEIR WASTE?

- Shirk responsibility for paying disposal fees
- Avoid taking the time to manage waste properly
- Ignore the problems caused by open dumping
- Unaware of disposal regulations



*Barriers can prevent easy access to remote areas.
Photo courtesy of US EPA Region 5.*

WHY IS OPEN DUMPING AN ISSUE?

- Health risks:
 - ✓ Physical injury (protruding nails, shards of wood or glass)
 - ✓ Chemical injury (inhaling harmful vapors or dust)
 - ✓ Disease from rodents, mosquitoes, etc.
- Endangers wildlife habitat
- Reduces property values and makes the community unattractive to further development

WHAT ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING?

- Erect signs warning dumpers of consequences if caught
- Undertake landscaping/beautification projects on vacant properties
- Install adequate lighting
- Place barriers (fences, concrete highway dividers, etc.) along roadsides in areas prone to dumping
- Educate individuals and communities as a whole concerning the problems associated with open dumping

- Indicate that the area is under 24 hour surveillance
- Raise fines for those caught illegally dumping and give a portion to the person who reported the incident
- Establish a neighborhood watch program, especially in areas with a heavy volume of illegal dumping

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

- Gather volunteers to participate in a “watchdog” program.
- Identify areas with high incidences of illegal dumping and set up a monitoring program.
- Prepare educational materials to make community residents aware of the problem.
- Create a local hotline where citizens can report illegal activities.
- Contact local businesses and agencies to solicit donations of cleanup equipment and supplies.



*Barriers can prevent easy access to remote areas.
Photo courtesy of US EPA Region 5.*

Printed by Authority of
the State of Illinois
August - 2004 34161 500

TO REPORT OPEN DUMPING, CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL ILLINOIS EPA OFFICE:

ROCKFORD – 4302 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 – (815) 987-7760 • DES PLAINES – 9511 W. Harrison St., Des Plaines, IL 60016 – (847) 294-4000
ELGIN – 595 South State, Elgin, IL 60123 – (847) 608-3131 • PEORIA – 5415 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 – (309) 693-5463
BUREAU OF LAND - PEORIA – 7620 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 – (309) 693-5462 • CHAMPAIGN – 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 – (217) 278-5800
SPRINGFIELD – 4500 S. Sixth Street Rd., Springfield, IL 62706 – (217) 786-6892 • COLLINSVILLE – 2009 Mall Street, Collinsville, IL 62234 – (618) 346-5120
MARION – 2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 – (618) 993-7200



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 055145061